

Message Text

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ACTION BIB-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05

SS-15 L-03 HA-05 ACDA-12 CU-06 EB-08 COME-00

FCC-02 OTPE-00 /116 W

-----108712 231643Z /45

P 231545Z JAN 78

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9764

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MUNICH 00405

GENEVA JOHN MCNEILL PASS TO DAS (EUR) LUERS

BONN FOR POL/HABIB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, CSCE

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON BIB'S FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT

REF: STATE 16738

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A JANUARY 23 NEW YORK TIMES

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ARTICLE DEVOTED TO BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

(BIB) OFFER OF BROADCAST TIME TO SOVIET AND EASTERN

EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS FOR RIGHT OF REPLY TO WHAT THEY

CONSIDER TO BE "INACCURACIES" IN SPECIFIC RFE/RL

PROGRAMS. ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY DAVID

BINDER AND DATELINED WASHINGTON.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO TURN THE TABLES ON THE SOVIET UNION IN A CONTINUING PROPAGANDA STRUGGLE WITH THE KREMLIN AND ITS EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES BY OFFERING AIR TIME ON GOVERNMENT RADIO STATIONS TO LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, IT WAS REPORTED SATURDAY.

THE PROPOSAL WAS INITIATED BY JOHN A. GRONOUSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY WHICH SUPERVISES RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY.

GRONOUSKI SUBMITTED THE PROPOSAL RECENTLY IN THE BOARD'S ANNUAL REPORT TO PRESIDENT CARTER, WHICH IS TO BE FORMALLY RELEASED AT THE END OF THE MONTH, KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS SAID.

THE TWO RADIO STATIONS HAVE BEEN BROADCASTING IN 16 LANGUAGES TO THE SOVIET UNION AND IN SIX LANGUAGES TO FIVE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES -- POLAND, BULGARIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND CZECHOSLAVAKIA -- SINCE THE EARLY 1950S.

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND SOME OF ITS EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES DENOUNCED THE PROGRAMS OF THE TWO STATIONS AS "DEFAMATORY PROPAGANDA" IN RECENT SESSIONS OF THE 35-NATION CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION UNCLASSIFIED

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IN BELGRADE.

IN HIS REPORT, GRONOUSKI SAID "THE BOARD IS PREPARED SERIOUSLY TO CONSIDER, IN CONCERT WITH THE RADIOS, THE DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES FOR MAKING RFE/RL AIR TIME AVAILABLE TO OFFICIALS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND EAST EUROPE FOR RESPONSES TO THOSE SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS WHICH HAVE MERIT."

HE ADDED THAT, "NO RADIO ENTERPRISE BROADCASTING 980 HOURS A WEEK CAN AVOID COMMITTING AN OCCASIONAL INACCURACY."

SINCE 1973, WHEN THE BROADCASTING BOARD WAS FORMED AS AN AGENCY RESPONSIBLE BOTH TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND TO CONGRESS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MAINTAINED THAT THE TWO STATIONS WERE ESSENTIALLY INFORMATIONAL IN CHARACTER AND WERE NOT INDULGING IN PRIMITIVE PROPAGANDA, AS HAD BEEN THE CASE IN EARLIER DECADES.

THE STATIONS WERE SET UP IN MUNICH, WEST GERMANY, BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AS PART OF ITS COVERT PROPAGANDA OPERATIONS AND WERE SECRETLY FUNDED BY THE

CIA UNTIL 1971, WHEN THE CLANDESTINE CONNECTION WAS
SEVERED BY CONGRESS.

BUT SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES CONTINUED TO DENOUNCE THE
STATIONS AS ESPIONAGE CENTERS AND FOMENTORS OF HOSTILE
PROPAGANDA, AND MOST OF THESE COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO JAM
THE SIGNALS OF RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY
ELECTRONICALLY.

ACCORDING TO THE BOARD, THE SOVIET UNION, CZECHOSLOVAKIA
AND BULGARIA INDULGE IN "HEAVY JAMMING," AS ONE OFFICIAL

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9765

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

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PUT IT. POLAND JAMS SOME BUT NOT ALL RFE FREQUENCIES.
IN RECENT YEARS, HUNGARY AND ROMANIA HAVE CEASED
JAMMING.

GRONOUSKI SAID HIS OFFER OF AIR TIME TO THE SOVIET BLOC
COUNTRIES WAS DESIGNED NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE ROOM FOR
CORRECTIONS OF INACCURACIES, BUT ALSO TO CREATE A BASIS

FOR ENDING THEIR JAMMING.

AS DIRECTED BY CARTER LAST MARCH 22, THE TWO STATIONS ARE
IN THE PROCESS OF ACQUIRING 11 NEW TRANSMITTERS -- MAINLY
TO OVERCOME THE JAMMING PROBLEM. FOUR OF THE TRANS-
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MITTERS WERE AUTHORIZED IN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET AND ARE
UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEAR MUNICH. THE REMAINING SEVEN
ARE TO BE AUTHORIZED IN THE FORTHCOMING BUDGET FOR
CONSTRUCTION PROBABLY IN PORTUGAL.

AN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL REMARKED THAT THE NEW TRANS-
MITTERS WOULD PROBABLY DRAW A RESPONSE FROM THE SOVIET
UNION OF INCREASED JAMMING. HE SAID THE GRONOUSKI
PROPOSAL WAS AIMED AT PROVIDING "A CIVILIZED ALTERNATIVE
TO JAMMING" OR, AT LEAST A BASIS FOR ENDING THE
ESCALATION OF INCREASED BROADCASTING VOLUME, MET BY
INCREASED JAMMING.

DIRECTIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT OUT TO UNITED STATES
EMBASSIES IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EAST EUROPE TO INFORM
THEM OF THE GRONOUSKI OFFER. END TEXT. BETTS

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